

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 1, Folder 35

June 4, 1946 -
July 24, 1946

Frame: 1090

U.S.S. WINGED ARROW (AP-170)

UNITED STATES NAVY CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS

Date: 4 June 1946

U.S.S. WINGED ARROW (AP-170) Port of Arrival San Francisco, California

To: Collector of Customs.
Via: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. WINGED ARROW (AP-170).

Herewith is submitted a list of articles acquired by myself in foreign countries, which list is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

No. of ARTICLES	Description of Articles	Cost or Value
2	Batteries Chandel # 5	\$ 30.00
1	Kimono	6.00

ABOVE FOR PERSONAL USE
OR GIFT:

Signature: O. W. T. S. S. S.
(Name) (Rste)
Commodore U.S.N.

1092

U. S. S. WINGED ARROW (AP-170)

At Sea
4 June 1946

Dear Jimmy,

I hope that you have not thought that I had forgotten you and your request concerning various toilet articles for a friend in Hong Kong. I most certainly have not, but I have not been able to locate these materials. I got the Admiral's Aide on the job and the Commanding General's Aide and all that they produced was a small toilet set for manicuring called Yu Chen and put out in Chicago, if you please. No Lentheric--no nothing. So that is why I have not written. I had hoped to locate it before I left Manila.

I am now en route home and should arrive in San Francisco tomorrow. Then I report to Coml2 for temporary duty until I can determine the best hospital for coronary difficulties and the Doctors there will look me over. If I can get by I want to at present but, if I cannot, it is OK with me. The best medical opinion is that I am in good shape with nothing really serious but, when the experts catch me, they may find me a wreck. I can't imagine it, however.

I was sorry that I did not see T. Joy before he left or W. Kitts before he reported there, but thats the way it goes. Ones friends pass by and one encounters visiting firemen instead. We had our full share of these gentlemen I can assure you. Fortunately we passed extremely well and, as a matter of fact, I received some personal approval which was swell. Its a little like giving the old, loyal, employe a watch instead of raising his pay or his rank.

I heard that you had shifted your hunting grounds to Shanghai. Its more fun there but it, also, gets on ones nerves in time; less so than Hong Kong I guess but a trial, in time, just the same. I spent considerable time there on the Richmond in 1927-28.

Admiral Kauffman has also left Manila and has returned home to be Commandant of the 4th Naval District. He is a wonderful fellow and I most certainly enjoyed my service with him.

1093

U. S. S. WINGED ARROW (AP-170)

I hope that you get home soon and I hope that when the new boards get organized and revamp the Admirals lists they will include you. You are young, able, personable! As for myself I hold no illusions. I have always done a bang up job, so they say—but that hasn't counted in this War. Whom do you know seems more important than what kind of job can you do. You know everybody there in Washington.

Can I do anything for you in the States? If so write me. Best as always.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Captain James Carter, USN.
U.S.S. LOS ANGELES
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California.

1094

Mare Island, California
23 July 1946

Vice Admiral J. L. Kauffman
Commandant, Fourth Naval District
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Admiral:

It was a lot of fun getting you on the telephone the other night and it was my sincere regret that I was unable to go to Philadelphia at that time. Instead I found it necessary to return to the hospital at Mare Island so that I might be given a clearance from the Medical Survey Board. You will be glad to know that this has been done and that I have been informed that I will be returned to full duty. I am to go to Newport, Rhode Island, to head a board on the evaluation of the battles of World War II and I know that I will enjoy it, although, it will keep me a little too far from you.

Thanks very much for your interest in my behalf. I sincerely hope that you will feel the same around November that you do now as Louis Denfeld told me that there was to be a board at that time to correct inequities in the fleet in promotion to rear admiral and he suggested that I endeavor to appear before that board. Now I shall be able to do so and I sincerely trust that by Christmas time I will have those two stars which have eluded me for so long.

Admiral Denfeld spoke most highly of you--in fact, he showed a sort of emotion about you and said, "he really is good, isn't he". I concurred thoroughly and let it go at that. I also talked to Admiral Nimitz about you and the high coordination between the Army and Navy in the Philippines and that pleased Admiral Nimitz.

I went to the Bohemian Club over the weekend and it is a lot of fun. I sent my acceptance in late so that the camps which I might have joined are full so I am stopping at Bromley. This is a very nice camp and, in my opinion, is better than the private camps as you are able to relax by yourself. I shall look up our many mutual friends in the grove and, in fact, some have already asked me to their camps.

I hope that you and Elsa are having the same enjoyable time that you always seem to have when together and I trust that your new assignment is a happy one. It's too bad that I cannot be with you but perhaps this job is better for me at present. Please remember me most kindly to Elsa and as for yourself, you know you always have my deepest affection.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

1095

Mare Island, California
23 July 1946

Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf
Commandant, Eleventh Naval District
San Diego, California

Dear Admiral:

This is merely a note to tell you that I have been declared fit for full duty and am to leave here in about a month for Newport, Rhode Island. I am to head a board for Admiral Spruance on the evaluation of the naval battles of World War II. How I happened to be chosen for this assignment I do not know, but everyone in Washington, where I was last week, seemed to think that I was eminently fitted for it, let's hope so! Vice Admiral Conolly told me that I had been chosen by Fleet Headquarters as well as by the War College.

I like analysis, as you have very kindly often said, and I hope to do well in this assignment. I presume that I will have a good opportunity to enter into the record some of the many difficulties which you faced and so triumphantly overcame. In this connection I don't like to make you feel badly, but I must repeat here what I have repeatedly said before, viz., "that I thought that you never had obtained the recognition due you." As an example, I noticed a book put out the other day about carriers, etc. which in the discussion of the battle of Leyte Gulf never even mentioned your name, although it did mention Admiral Kincaid. To me it is incredible that the name of the Commander of a most victorious force should be omitted in so many editions of present day information. I hope that no one will be able to say that about my analyses, provided that the information is available.

I may get down there to see you before I leave here, and I shall make it a point to do so. I am spending a few days at the Bohemian Grove with the boys of the Bohemian Club and it is a lot of fun. Lieutenant General Holland Smith and Rear Admiral C. H. Wright from Hawaii are both up there now; also. Ed Washburn.

With warmest personal regards to you and to Betty, I am as ever,

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. BATES

1096

Mare Island, California
23 July 1946

Vice Admiral Louis Denfeld
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Louie:

I cannot begin to tell you the pleasure I experienced in seeing you in Washington the other day. You were very kind and appeared quite interested in my welfare, which, I can assure you, was most gratifying to me.

I am glad to inform you that I have been informed by the Medical Board this morning that they will report me as fit for full duty and a despatch will, I suppose, go to you to that effect.

The Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital is sending you a message concerning my prospective orders. Rear Admiral Holloway requested that we send such a message and this one is marked—attention Admiral Holloway.

I must reiterate again here what I said to you there in Washington—to wit—that the officers of the fleet have great confidence in you and feel that their interests are in safe hands.

I was very glad to hear of the prospective board to meet this Fall to correct inequities in promotions to Rear Admiral. I sincerely trust that I will prove to be one of those who, for some reason or another, has heretofore been overlooked.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Commodore USN

Mare Island, California
24 July 1946

Rear Admiral A. E. Smith
Chief of Staff
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Hoke:

As you have probably noted by the telegrams which I have been sending from here, I am now fit for duty and will soon be reporting in to tackle that mighty job which you have discovered for me.

Needless to say, I have a deep interest in this assignment and I hope to be able to produce an adequate result for Admiral Spruance. I haven't any idea whom you have chosen as other members of the committee, but I do hope that they are good workers and researchers.

I have been in the hospital here for about a month, having arrived on the Coast in early June. I have had no leave for at least three years, excepting for a few days in 1945, and I feel that I need a rest once I am discharged from the hospital. I made a quick flight to Washington the other day to check up on matters connected with myself, and I asked about this assignment and found that it was about what I had thought. I personally think that the Medical Board did the right thing in ordering me back to full duty as I look and feel very well and, in Washington, everyone said that I looked better than they had ever seen me. This was gratifying to me as I have been hoping for this improvement in appearance ever since I entered the hospital.

I don't know where I will stop in Newport. I should certainly like to get my apartment back from Mrs. Miller at 12 Mount Vernon Street. If you can put a little pressure on her I wish you would do so for me. I suppose that it is possible to stop at the Muenchinger-King but I never liked it too much there and I am getting more and more particular. It might be possible to go to the Muenchinger-King now and shift to some apartment later.

I look forward to seeing you and Margaret very much indeed. I also look forward to serving with Admiral Spruance with distinct pleasure. I have always felt that he was the outstanding brain in the Naval Service and I am ballyhooing him all the time for five stars. One of these days he will get them!

With best regards to you and with many thanks for your interest in me, I am,
as ever your old friend,

R. W. BATES

1098

Mare Island, California
24 July 1946

Vice Admiral Richard L. Conolly
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Dick:

I was very pleased when I succeeded in finding you in Washington and I was more than gratified when you invited me out to your house for cocktails and gave me the privilege of seeing your beloved Helen again. I also enjoyed meeting your son. Yours is a most happy family and you have proven that success in life can often, in part, be attributed to a happy home life.

I was very proud to hear of your new assignment, particularly the Peace Conference, and I know that you will do well there. I want to thank you very much for your advice to me in Washington, and to assure you that I value it most deeply—so deeply, in fact, that I came back and told the Medical Board of what you and Admiral Denfeld and others of lesser importance had said, and the Board notified me a little later that they were about to declare me fit for full duty.

I have, therefore, notified the Naval War College by despatch and have notified the Bureau of Naval Personnel also, so I expect to get orders any time. I have asked for thirty days leave because, except for my short trip to Washington, I have had practically no leave since 1943 and then only enough days to get across the continent.

The weather out here is perfectly glorious, the flowers are in full bloom and even the girls seem to radiate the beauty of a lovely Spring. Your Washington is charming on occasions, and your own estate, in this connection, is lovely—nevertheless, California excels all. I say this for the first time because I have never boasted of California before!

Let me wish you all happiness in your new assignment! I know that I, as well as your family, will watch your progress in the negotiations with the supreme confidence that the United States Navy will not fail the Nation.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

1099

C-37

U. S. NAVAL MESSAGE (OFFICIAL BUSINESS)

FROM: U. S. NAVY YARD, MARE ISLAND	ACTION	TO	NAVAL WAR COLLEGE NEWPORT R I	PRIORITY
Released <i>DATE</i> Date				ROUTINE
Copies to <i>051</i>	INFO.	TO		DEFERRED
				NITE LETTER

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

UNLESS DESIGNATED OTHERWISE THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS DEFERRED

(TEXT)

be advised

FOR ADMIRAL SPRUANCE MEDICAL BOARD WILL SURVEY ME TO FULL DUTY I EXPECT THEREFORE
REPORT NEWPORT AS INDICATED BY TEL TO YOU ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO I VERY HAPPY THAT THIS
OPPORTUNITY OF SERVING WITH YOU AGAIN I LOOK FORWARD MY NEW ASSIGNMENT WITH INTENSE
INTEREST SIGNED R W BATES

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